TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 23, 2001 LB 536

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR DIERKS: The...the idea was that we were trying to keep the cost about...pretty...as close as we could to 50-50, between the corn producer and the state funding. And we're calling some of the state funding, of course, the excise tax on the gluten feed or distillers tax, we're calling some of that the interest that's raised on the EPIC Fund during those seven years. And if you can take your time and look at the flow chart, it will tell you kind of where we are on that issue.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okav. Senator, I understand how you could characterize things in a couple of different ways. But just let me say that generally speaking I think this is the fairest allocation suggestion that has been made on one of these kinds of bills throughout the years. And I appreciate the fact that that kind of thought has been given to a fair sharing of the I...I have supported ethanol, most of the bills, from time to time in the past. And obviously what we're doing represents a kind of tinkering with the free enterprise system. But I think before the day is over we'll talk about probably a half a dozen to a dozen good reasons why we should be tinkering a little bit with the free enterprise system in order to counteract, for one thing, the tinkering that's gone on with the free enterprise system both in this country and outside this country which has been adverse to the agricultural producer in There are a number of things we can start talking this state. about, but just to start with the basic fact of the oil cartel. You and I and all of us are well aware that in the Mideast all of the big producers of oil have gotten together and instituted a monopolistic practice that wouldn't stand in this country for two seconds. But because they are foreign countries, and because they're heads of state, and because they're in the Mideast and because of a variety of factors that make diplomacy and international pressure difficult in that area with these folks, we don't do anything about that monopolistic practice. And the result of that monopolistic practice affects all consumers...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.